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ABSTRACT

The evolution of jobs and the job market in the United States was examined in a 3-year project during which a task force consisting of 25 representatives of the education, labor, business, and policy sectors organized 17 workshops and commissioned working papers from experts. The project began by examining how recent changes in the world of work have undermined the old assumptions regarding the labor market and altered the social contract that traditionally existed between employers and employees. The project resulted in a vision in which all stakeholders in the U.S. labor market assume new roles in the labor market by reasserting and recommitting to the following values and cultural traditions that have historically served as the U.S. labor market's moral grounding: work as a source of dignity; diversity and equality of opportunity; solidarity and equality of opportunity; and voice and participation. Specific roles for the following entities in addressing the issues of low-income labor markets, worker mobility, and work-family concerns were outlined: corporations; unions; new intermediaries (worker advocacy groups and organizations; immigrant groups; living-wage coalitions; advocates of work-family polices and practices; and education, training, and lifelong learning organizations); and government. (Lists of the task force members and project participants are appended, and 141 endnotes are included.) (MN)

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